Aspire EL

User's guide

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Aspire EL User's guide
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Record the model number, serial number, purchase date, and place of purchase information in the space provided below. The serial number and model number are recorded on the label affixed to your computer. All correspondense concerning your unit should include the serial number, model number, and purchase information.

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Aspire EL

Model Number : _____

Serial Number: _____

Purchase Date: _____

Place of Purchase: _____

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Notices

FCC notice

This device has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This device generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy, and if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications.

However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this device does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the device off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna
- Increase the separation between the device and receiver
- Connect the device into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/television technician for help

Notice: Shield cables

All connections to other computing devices must be made using shielded cables to maintain compliance with FCC regulations.

Notice: Peripheral devices

Only peripherals (input/output devices, terminals, printers, etc.) certified to comply with the Class B limits may be attached to this equipment. Operation with noncertified peripherals is likely to result in interference to radio and TV reception.

Caution! Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority, which is granted by the Federal Communications Commission, to operate this computer.

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Use conditions

This part complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Notice: Canadian users

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

Remarque à l'intention des utilisateurs canadiens

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B respected toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

Important safety instructions

Read these instructions carefully. Save these instructions for future reference.

1 Follow all warnings and instructions marked on the product.

2 Unplug this product from the wall outlet before cleaning. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosol cleaners. Use a damp cloth for cleaning.

3 Do not use this product near water.

4 Do not place this product on an unstable cart, stand, or table. The product may fall, causing serious damage to the product.

5 Slots and openings in the cabinet and the back or bottom are provided for ventilation; to ensure reliable operation of the product and to protect it from overheating, these openings must not be blocked or covere. The openings should never be blocked by placing the product on a bed, sofa, rug, or other similar surface. This product should never be placed near or over a radiator or heat register, or in a built-in installation unless proper ventilation is provided.

6 This product should be operated from the type of power indicated on the marking label. If you are not sure of the type of power available, consult your dealer or local power company.

7 Do not allow anything to rest on the power cord. Do not locate this product where persons will walk on the cord.

8 If an extension cord is used with this product, make sure that the total ampere rating of the equipment plugged into the extension cord does not exceed the extension cord ampere rating. Also, make sure that the total rating of all products plugged into the wall outlet does not exceed the fuse rating.

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9 Never push objects of any kind into this product through cabinet slots as they may touch dangerous voltage points or short out parts that could result in a fire or electric shock. Never spill liquid of any kind on the product.

10 Do not attempt to service this product yourself, as opening or removing covers may expose you to dangerous voltage points or other risks. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.

11 Unplug this product from the wall outlet and refer servicing to qualified service personnel under the following conditions:

   a When the power cord or plug is damaged or frayed

   b If liquid has been spilled into the product

   c If the product has been exposed to rain or water

   d If the product does not operate normally when the operating instructions are followed. Adjust only those controls that are covered by the operating instructions since improper adjustment of other controls may result in damage and will often require extensive work by a qualified technician to restore the product to normal condition.

   e If the product has been dropped or the cabinet has been damaged

   f If the product exhibits a distinct change in performance, indicating a need for service.

12 Replace the battery with the same type as the product's battery we recommend. Use of another battery may present a risk of fire or explosion. Refer battery replacement to a qualified serviceman.

13 Warning! Batteries may explode if not handled properly. Do not disassemble or dispose of them in fire. Keep them away from children and dispose of used batteries promptly.

14 Use only the proper type of power supply cord set (provided in your accessories box) for this unit. It should be a detachable type: UL listed/CSA certified, type SPT-2, rated 7A 125V minimum, VDE approved or its equivalent. Maximum length is 15 feet (4.6 meters).

Year 2000 compliance statement

The Aspire EL computer carries the "Hardware NSTL Tested Year 2000 Compliant" logo, which certifies that this model has been tested by NSTL using

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the YMark2000 test, and has been found to meet NSTL's standards for Year 2000 hardware compliance.

For more details, check the Acer Year 2000 Resource Center at http://global.acer.com/service/pcy2000.html

Laser compliance statement

The CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive in this computer is a laser product. The CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive's classification label (shown below) is located on the drive.

CLASS 1 LASER PRODUCT
CAUTION: INVISIBLE LASER RADIATION WHEN OPEN. AVOID EXPOSURE TO BEAM.

TCO 95 compliant

The Aspire EL computer is a TCO 95 approved and labelled product. TCO 95 provides international environmental and quality labelling of personal computers. The labelling scheme was developed as a joint effort by the TCO (The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees), Svenska Naturskyddsforeningen (The Swedish Society of Nature Conservation), Statens Energimyndighet (The Swedish National Energy Administration) and SEMKO AB. The requirements of TCO 95 cover a wide range of issues: environment, usability, reduction of electric and magnetic fields, energy consumption and electrical safety.

For more details, check the TCO Development at http://www.tco-info.com/

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1 First things first

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This chapter describes the contents of your computer package and also provides important tips on how to take care of your computer.

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Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for purchasing the Aspire EL computer. You are now the proud owner of a top of the line multimedia computer system. Your Aspire EL computer comes preinstalled with software programs that will enable you to:

- Create personal documents
- Access the Internet
- Send and receive emails
- Play audio and video CDs and tons more!

Whether you've owned a computer before or not, your Aspire EL computer was designed to improve the way you work (and make it more enjoyable too!) and effectively serve your computing needs.

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Package contents

Before you unpack your computer, make sure that you have enough space to set it up.

Carefully unpack the carton and remove the contents. If any of the following items are missing or damaged, contact your dealer immediately:

- Aspire EL
- **Just for Starters...** poster
- USB keyboard
- Items contained in the accessory box
  - USB mouse
  - Power cable
  - User's guide
  - Acer GoTo swappable drive (optional)
- Other user documentation and third-party software
- Aspire EL Warranty Guide (in selected countries only)

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Before you start...

Please read the safety instructions listed in this section. Following these instructions on the care and use of your new computer will help you maximize its durability.

Important tips

- Do not expose the computer to direct sunlight. Do not place it near sources of heat, such as a radiator.
- Do not subject the computer to magnetic fields.
- Do not expose the computer to rain or moisture.
- Do not spill water on the computer.
- Do not subject the computer to heavy shock or vibration.
- Do not expose the computer to dust and dirt.
- Never place the system on uneven surfaces.
- Do not step on the power cord or place heavy objects on top of it. Carefully route the power cord and any cables away from personal traffic.
- When unplugging the power cord, do not pull on the cord itself but pull on the plug.
- The total ampere rating of the equipment plugged in should not exceed the ampere rating of the cord if you are using an extension cord. Also, the total current rating of all equipment plugged into a single wall outlet should not exceed the fuse rating.
- Check the documentation that came with your software programs to see if you can select other combinations of resolution and color. These adjustments could make viewing the screen more comfortable.

Cleaning and servicing

To clean your computer and keyboard

1 Turn off the computer and unplug the power cable.

2 Use a soft cloth moistened with water and gently wipe the exterior of the computer and the keyboard. Do not use liquid or aerosol cleaners.

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To clean your mouse

1 Open the circular cover underneath the mouse.

2 Take out the rubber ball and wipe it with a soft, damp cloth.

3 Put the ball back and close the cover.

When to contact a service technician

- If you dropped and damaged the computer
- If liquid has been spilled into the computer
- If the computer is not operating normally
- If a computer problem persists even after you have checked and done the troubleshooting tips discussed in the "Need help?" section on page 51
- If your problem is not listed in the "Need help?" section on page 51
- If you want to replace or upgrade any of your computer's internal components

Asking for technical assistance

For technical assistance, contact your local dealer or distributor. You may also access the Acer Web site at http://www.acer.com/ for information on how and where to contact the service centers available in your area.

Accessing your online guide

For on-the-go help information about your computer, refer to the Aspire EL online guide. To access the online guide, simply double-click on the Aspire EL online icon on your Windows desktop.

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2 Getting to know your Aspire EL

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This chapter discusses the features and components of your computer.

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Features

Here are just a few of your computer's many features:

Performance

- Intel Pentium® 4 micro Pin Grid Array (mPGA) processor with integrated 256 KB on-die L2 cache
- Expandable system memory to a maximum of 3 GB
- High-capacity Enhanced-IDE hard disk
- 3.5-inch floppy drive
- Universal 1x/2x/4x AGP slot
- Power management system with Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) support
- Supports Windows 2000 and Windows Me operating systems

Multimedia

- Cathode-ray tube (CRT) and liquid crystal display (LCD) support
- 3D audio system via onboard AC'97 audio codec
- Memory Stick reader (optional)
- Optical drive (CD-ROM, DVD-ROM or CD-RW drive)
- Line-in, line-out, microphone-in, headphone-out and game port interfaces

Connectivity

- High-speed 56 K V.90 data/fax/voice modem
- IEEE 802./802.3u 10BaseT/100BaseTX-compatible network adaptor
- USB and PS/2-compatible mouse and keyboard interfaces
- Four Universal Serial Bus (USB) ports with Plug and Play function
- High-speed NS 16C550-compatible serial ports
- Multi-mode parallel port

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Expansion

- 3 PCI slots + 3 DIMM slots + 1 AGP slot
- Upgradeable memory and hard disk
- Acer GoTo swappable drive (optional)

Human-centric design and ergonomics

- Smooth and stylish design
- Low emission and low radiation

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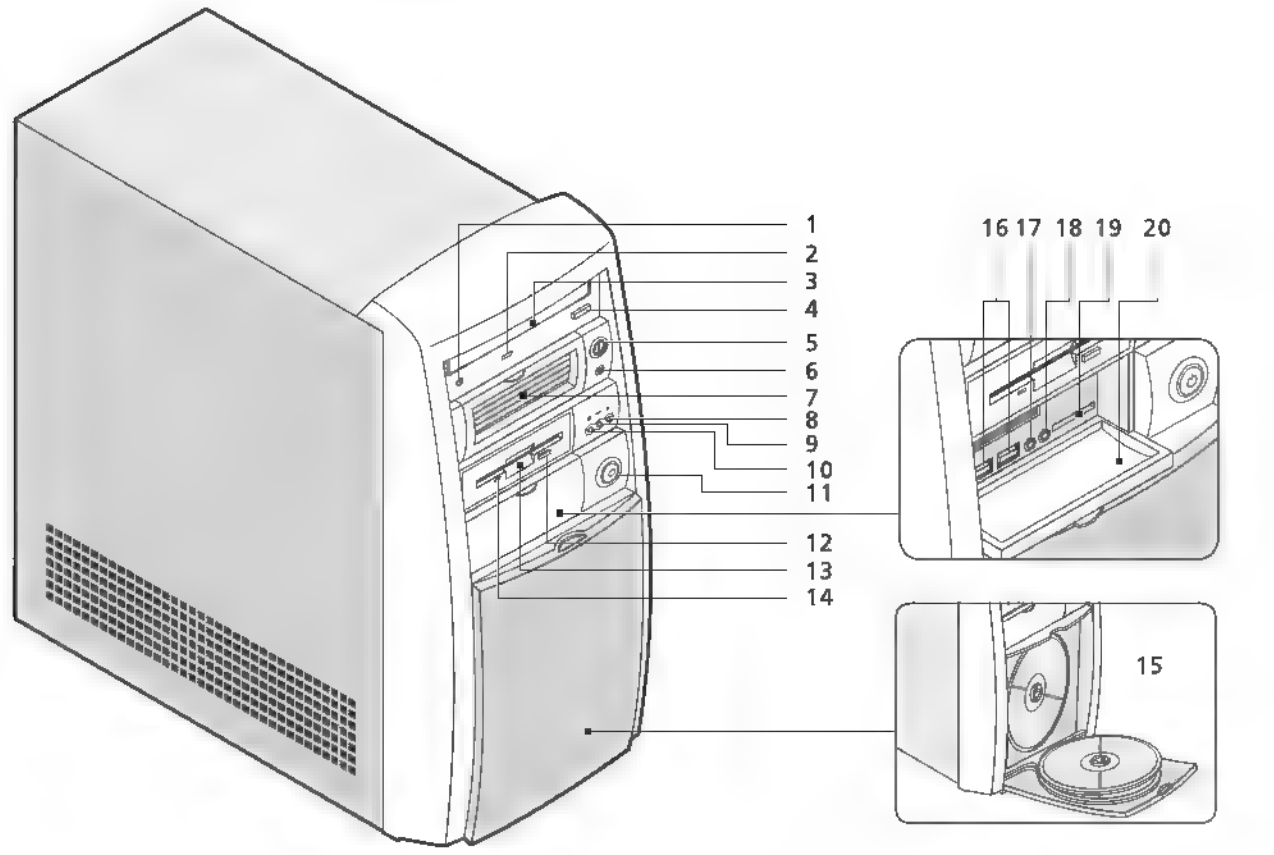
The front panel

Your computer's front panel consists of the following:



No.	Description	No.	Description
1	Speaker/Headphone-out port	11	Power button
2	CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive activity indicator	12	3.5-inch floppy drive eject button
3	CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive emergency eject hole	13	3.5-inch floppy drive
4	CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive Stop/Eject button	14	3.5-inch floppy drive activity indicator
5	Acer GoTo drive bay keylock	15	CD/DVD compartment
6	Acer GoTo drive activity indicator	16	Front USB ports
7	Acer GoTo drive (optional)	17	Front microphone-in port
8	Power indicator	18	Speaker/Headphone-out port
9	LAN activity indicator	19	Memory Stick slot (optional)
10	Hard disk activity indicator	20	Multimedia port bay cover

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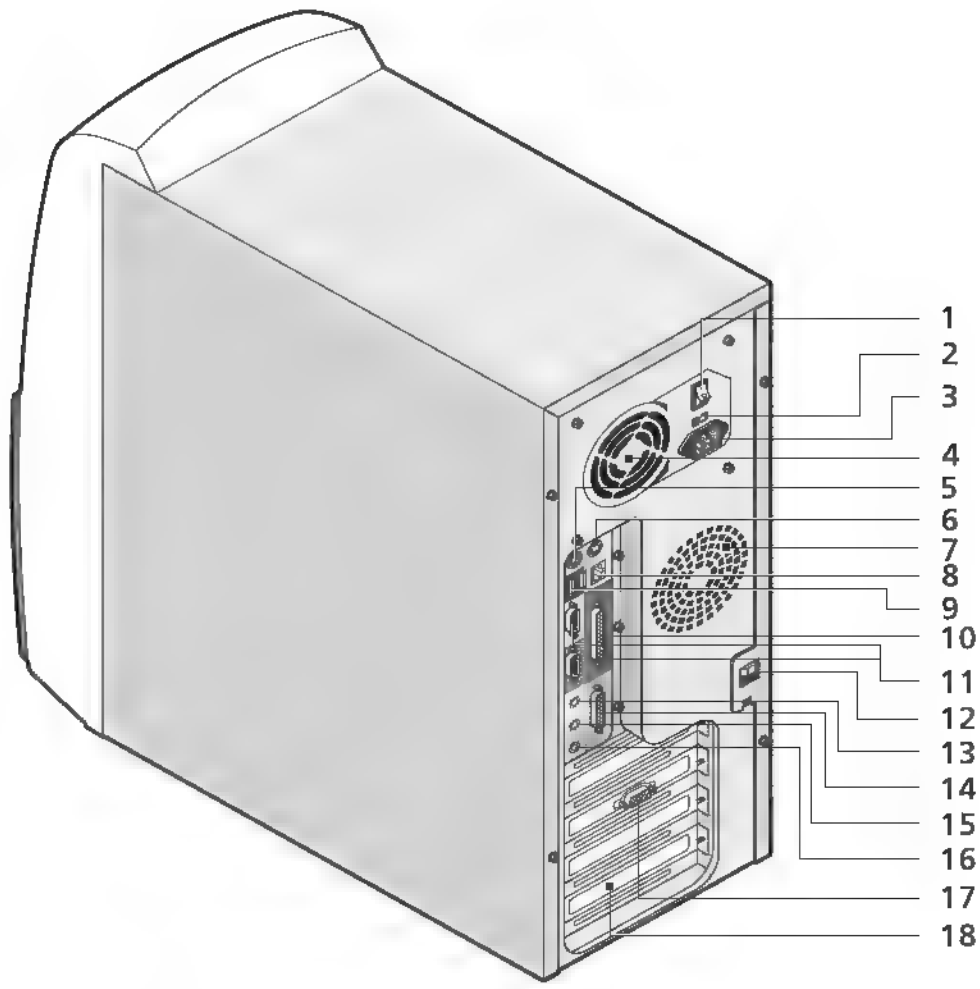
The rear panel

Your computer offers several ports that allow you to connect peripheral devices. These ports are located on the rear panel of your computer.

For information on how to connect the peripherals, refer to "Connecting peripherals" on page 27 and "Adding options to your Aspire EL" on page 31.

Your computer's rear panel consists of the following:



No.	Icon	Color	Description
1			Main power switch
2			Voltage selector switch
3			Power cable socket
4			System fan 1
5		Purple	PS/2 keyboard port

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No.	Icon	Color	Description
6		Green	PS/2 mouse port
7			System fan 2
8		Black	Network port
9		Black	Rear USB ports
10		Burgundy	Parallel/printer port
11		Teal or turquoise	Serial ports
12			Keyhole
13		Lime	Audio-out/Line-out port
14		Gold	Game/MIDI port
15		Light blue	Audio-in/Line-in port
16		Black	Microphone-in port
17		Blue	Monitor/VGA port
18			Expansion slots

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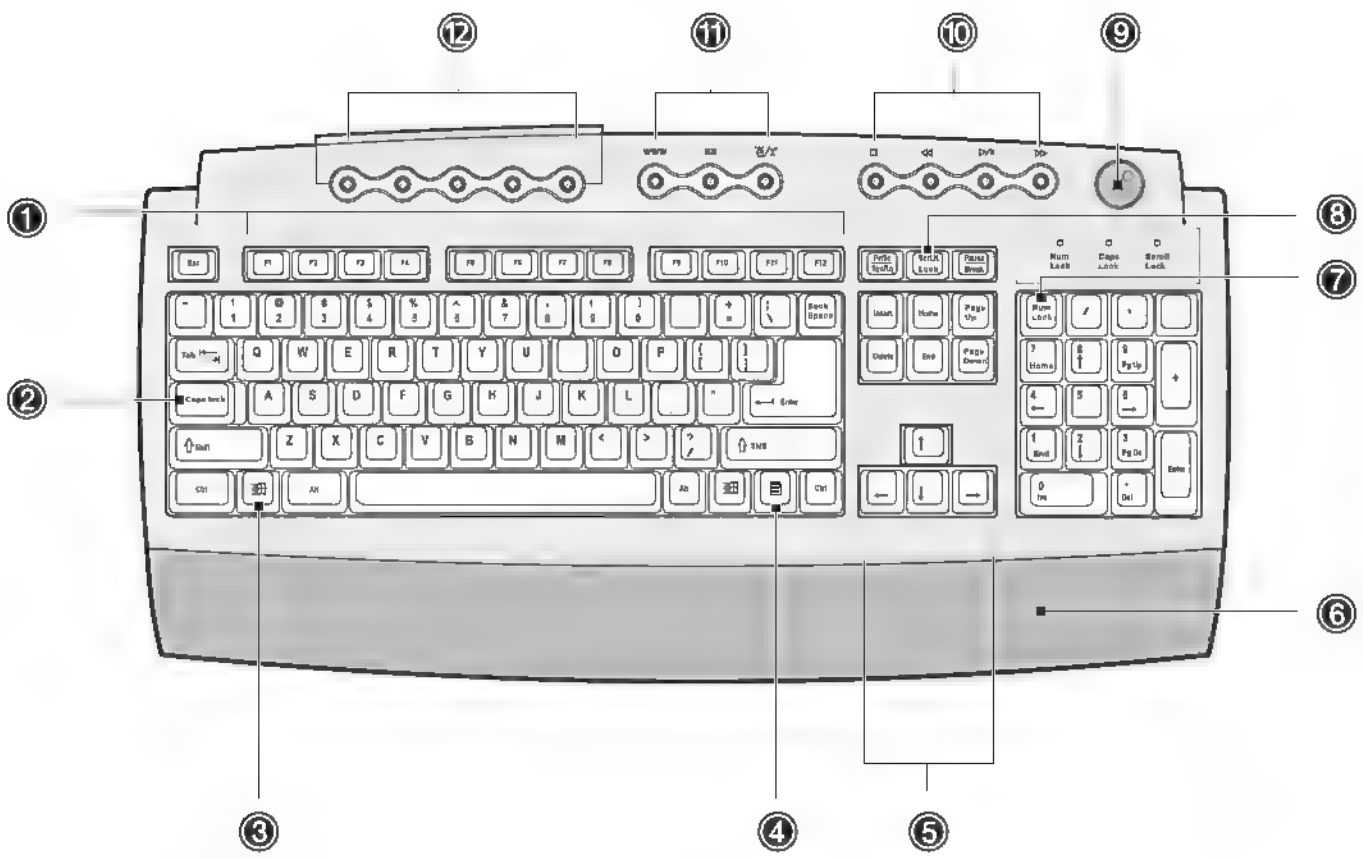
The keyboard

Your computer comes with a USB keyboard. The keyboard has full-sized keys that include separate cursor keys, two Windows keys, and twelve function keys.

For information on how to connect your USB keyboard, please see "Connecting peripherals" on page 27.



No.	Component	Function
1	Function keys (**F1** - **F12**)	Access most of the computer's controls like screen brightness, volume output and the BIOS Setup utility.
2	Caps Lock	When activated, all alphabetic characters typed appear in uppercase (same function as pressing **Shift** + **<letter>**).

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No.	Component	Function
3	Windows logo key	**Start** button. Combinations with this key perform special functions, such as: • **Windows** + **Tab**: Activate the next Taskbar button • **Windows** + **E**: Explore My Computer • **Windows** + **F**: Find Document • **Windows** + **M**: Minimize All • **Shift** + **Windows** + **M**: Undo Minimize All • **Windows** + **R**: Displays the **Run** dialog box
4	Application key	Opens the applications context menu (same function as clicking the right button of the mouse).
5	Cursor keys	Also called the arrow keys. These keys let you move the cursor around the screen. They serve the same function as the arrow keys on the numeric pad when the Num Lock is toggled off.
6	Palm rest (detachable)	Provides a comfortable place to rest your hands while typing.
7	Num Lock	When activated, the keypad is set to numeric mode, i.e., the keys function as a calculator (complete with arithmetic operators such as +, -, x, and /).
8	Scroll Lock	When activated, the screen moves one line up or down when you press the up arrow or down arrow respectively. Take note that Scroll Lock may not work with some applications.
9	Volume control/ Mute knob	The volume control/mute knob controls the speaker volume. Turn it clockwise or counterclockwise to adjust the volume. Press it to toggle between mute and sound.

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No.	Component	Function
10	Multimedia keys	Allow you to do the following: • **Play/Pause button** ⏯ - press to start playing the audio or video file. Press again to pause. • **Stop button** ■ - press to stop playing the audio or video file. • **Forward button** ⏭ - press to skip forward to the next file and start playing. • **Backward button** ⏮ - press to skip backward to the previous file and start playing.
11	Internet/Suspend keys	Consist of three buttons: • **Email button** launches your email application. • **Web browser button** www launches your current default browser. • **Suspend/Resume button** puts the system to sleep when pressed. To wake the system press it again.
12	Programmable keys	Access a URL (Web site) or launch any program, file or application in your system. The fifth key is set to launch the Windows Media Player. To configure the settings of each key, right-click on the Magic Keyboard icon located on your Windows desktop.

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The mouse

Your computer comes with a USB mouse. The mouse has one ratchet wheel and two buttons: a right button and a left button. Quickly pressing and releasing the buttons is called clicking. Sometimes, you will need to do a double-click (clicking the same button twice quickly) or a right-click (clicking the right button quickly).

For information on how to connect your USB mouse, see "Connecting peripherals" on page 27.

No.	Component	Function
1	Left button	Allows you to select with a click and execute with a double-click.
2	Ratchet wheel	Allows you to easily scroll. By moving the wheel with your index finger, you can quickly move through multiple pages, lines or windows. Also functions as a third button allowing you to quickly click or double-click an icon or a selected item.
3	Right button	Opens the applications context menu.

For information on how to clean your mouse, see "To clean your mouse" on page 6.

Note: If you are left-handed, refer to your Windows manual for instructions on how to set up your mouse for left-handed use.

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Disk drives

Your Aspire EL computer comes with the following disk drives:

Hard disk

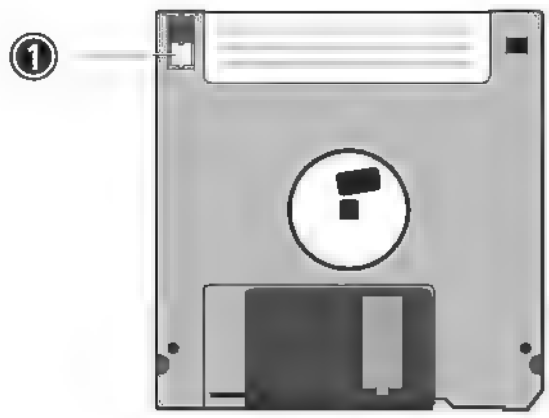
Your computer is preinstalled with a high-capacity Enhanced-IDE (E-IDE) hard disk.

3.5-inch floppy drive

Your computer's 3.5-inch floppy drive supports 720-KB, 1.44-MB and 2.88-MB capacity diskettes.

Floppy diskettes are compact, lightweight, and easy to carry around. Here are some tips on how to take care of your diskettes:

- Always make backup copies of the diskettes that contain important data or program files.
- Keep diskettes away from magnetic fields and sources of heat.
- Avoid removing a diskette from the floppy drive when the drive activity indicator is on.
- Write-protect your diskettes to prevent accidental erasure. To do this, slide the write-protect tab to the write-protect position (1).



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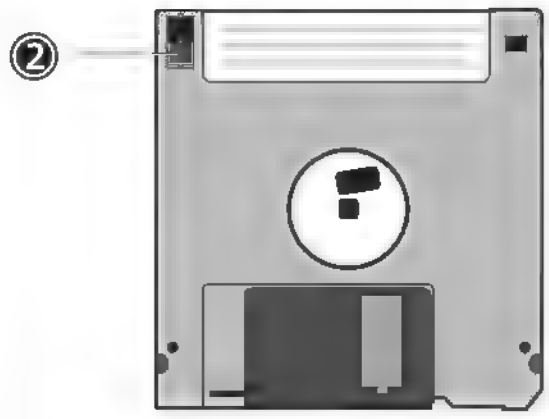
Sliding the write-protect tab to the not-write-protect position (2) will allow you to store and modify data in your diskettes.



- When you put a label on a 3.5-inch diskette, make sure that the label is properly attached (flat on the surface) and within the labeling area (area with a slight surface depression) on the diskette. An improperly attached label may cause a diskette to get stuck in the floppy drive when you are inserting or removing it.

CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive

Your computer may come with a CD-ROM, a DVD-ROM or a CD-RW drive. This drive is located on the front panel of your computer.

The CD-ROM drive allows you to play different types of compact discs (CDs).

The DVD-ROM drive allows you to play not only old CD-ROMs, CD-I discs, and video CDs, but new Digital Video Discs (DVDs) as well. DVD or DVD-ROM is a new type of CD-ROM that holds a minimum of 4.7-GB (gigabytes), enough for a full-length movie. It is believed that it will eventually replace CD-ROMs, as well as VHS video cassettes and laser discs.

The CD-RW drive allows you to record or burn CD-R/W (Recordable or Rewritable) discs.

CDs and DVDs, like diskettes, are compact, lightweight, and easy to carry around. However, they are more delicate than diskettes and must be handled with extra care. Here are some tips on how to take care of your CDs and DVDs:

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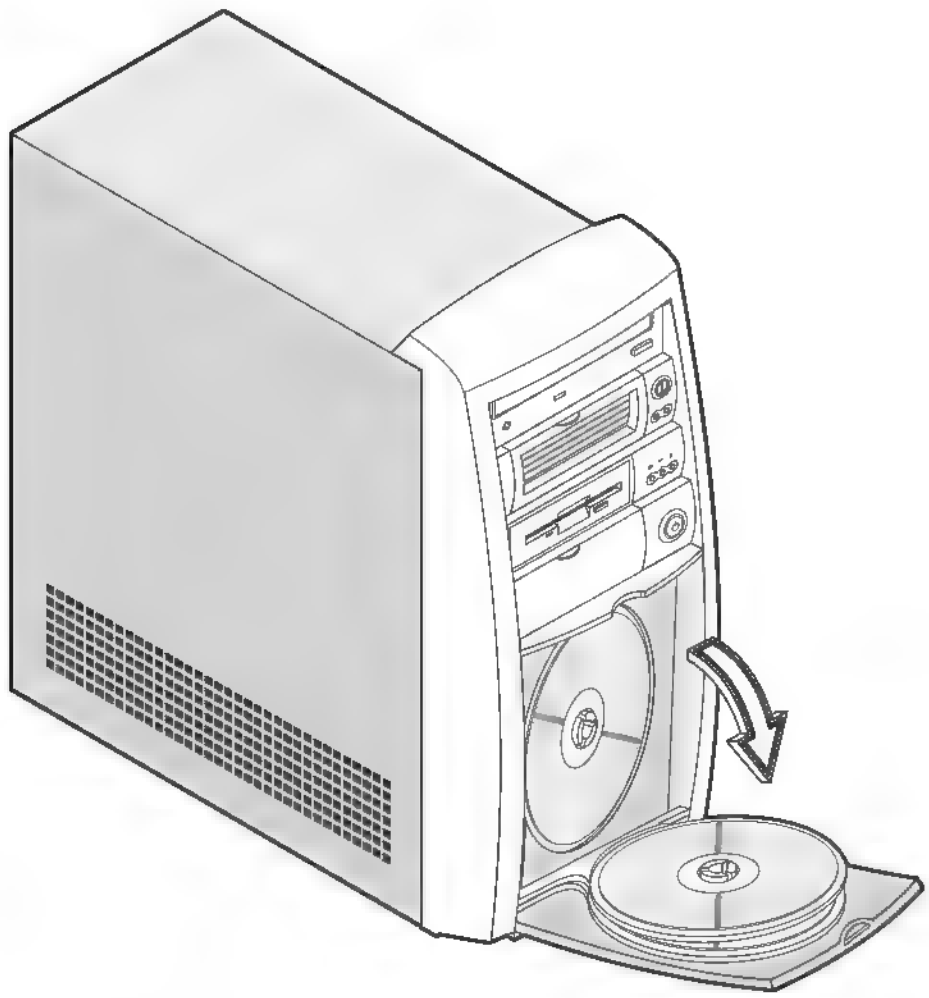
- Keep your discs in a disk case when not in use to avoid scratches or other damage. Your Aspire EL computer has a built-in CD/DVD compartment located on the lower front panel.



Any kind of dirt or damage can affect the data on the disc, impair the disc lens reader on the CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive, or stop the computer from successfully reading the disc.

- When handling discs, always hold them by the edges to avoid smudges or fingerprints.
- When cleaning discs, use a clean, dust-free cloth and wipe in a straight line from the center to the edge. Do not wipe in a circular motion.
- Clean your CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive regularly. You may refer to the cleaning kit for instructions. Cleaning kits can be purchased in any computer or electronics shop.

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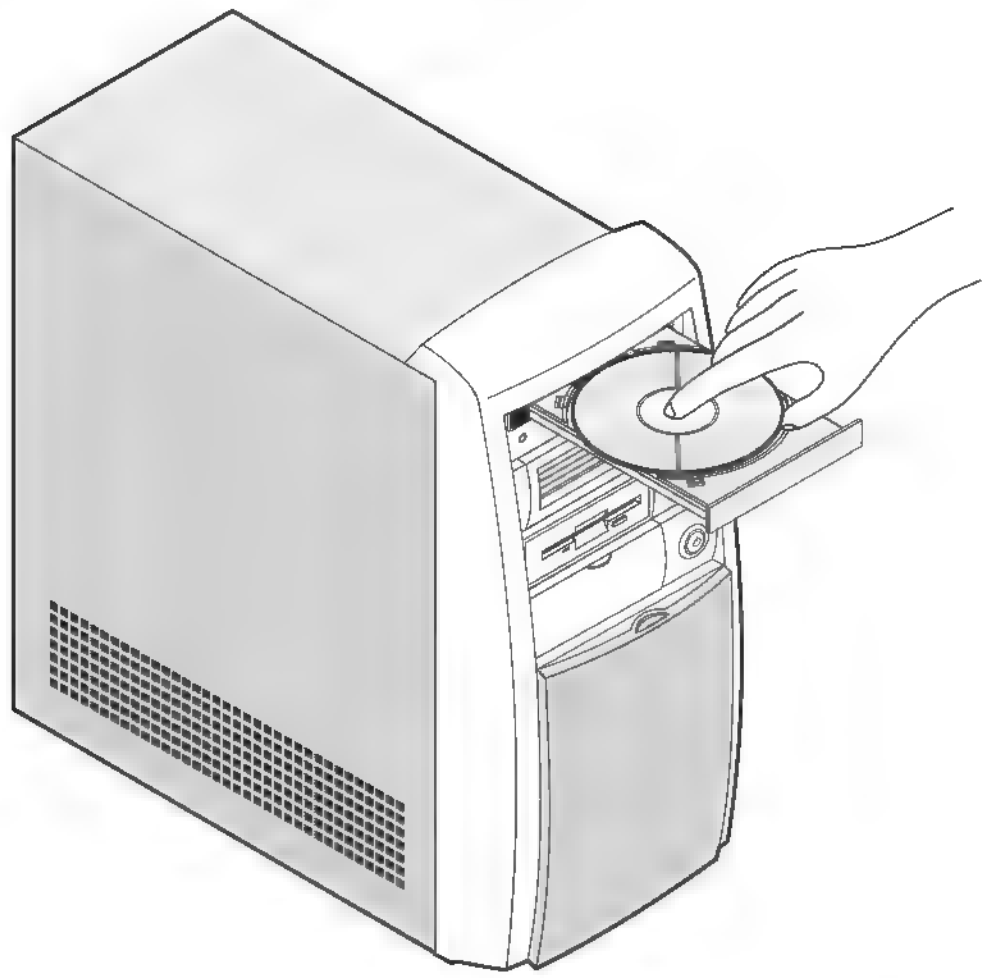
To insert a CD/DVD into your computer's CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive:

1 **Gently press the drive Stop/Eject button located on the front panel.**

2 **When the disc tray slides open, insert the CD/DVD with the label or title side of the disc facing upward.**



3 Gently press the disc down to make sure that it is properly inserted.

Caution! While pressing the CD/DVD, be careful not to bend the disc tray. Make sure that the CD/DVD is properly inserted before closing the disc tray. Improper insertion may damage both the CD/DVD and the CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive.

4 Gently press the drive Stop/Eject button again to close the disc tray.

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To eject the CD or DVD tray:

- To eject the CD or DVD tray when the computer is turned on, press the drive Stop/Eject button.
- To eject the CD or DVD tray when the computer is turned off, insert the tip of a pen or a paperclip into the emergency eject hole to pop out the tray.

Acer GoTo drive bay (optional)

Your Aspire EL computer features the Acer GoTo drive bay - a swappable modular drive bay, located on the front panel of your computer. This modular drive bay allows you to conveniently install a second hard disk for additional storage capacity for your computer.

The Acer GoTo drive bay is cold-swappable. This means you first have to turn off your computer before swapping drive modules in and out of the drive bay.

Caution! NEVER attempt to swap in or out a drive module in the Acer GoTo drive bay while the system is on. Doing so can result to data loss, system crash and damage to both the swappable hard disk and the computer system.

For security purposes, your Acer GoTo drive bay has a mechanical keylock which lets you control access to the drive bay.

To configure your Acer GoTo drive, see “Configuring your Acer GoTo drive” on page 42.

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3 Setting up your Aspire EL

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This chapter contains step-by-step instructions on how to set up your computer.

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Arranging a comfortable work area

Working safely begins with the appropriate arrangement of your work space and the proper use of equipment. For this reason, it is very important to take time and think about how you are going to arrange your work area.

Here are some points to consider:

Adjusting your chair

Having the right kind of chair does not necessarily mean that you'll be properly supported. It is necessary to adjust your chair to fit your body. Proper body posture will make you more comfortable and productive.

- Avoid tilting your chair. If you have a chair that tilts, lock those tilt knobs so that your chair will not tilt forward or backward while you are using your computer.
- Adjust your chair height in such a way that you can sit on it with your thighs parallel to the floor and your feet resting flat on the floor.
- Rest your body on the chair back. Your torso works harder to maintain balance if you do not rest your body on the chair back.

Positioning your Aspire EL

- Do not put your computer near any equipment that might cause electromagnetic or radio frequency interference such as radio transmitters, televisions, copy machines, or heating and air-conditioning equipment.
- Avoid dusty areas and extremes of temperature and humidity.
- You may place your computer beside your desk or under your table, as long as it does not block the space that you need for working and moving.

Positioning your monitor

Place your monitor at a comfortable viewing distance, usually 50 to 60 centimeters away. Adjust the display in such a way that the top of the screen is at or slightly below eye level.

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Positioning your keyboard

The location of the keyboard is a very important factor to your posture. Placing it too far will make your body lean forward forcing you to sit in an unnatural position. Placing it too high will add tension to your shoulder muscles.

- The keyboard should be placed just above your lap. Adjust the keyboard height by flipping the folding stands located under the keyboard.
- Keep your lower arms parallel to the floor as you type. Your upper arms and shoulders should be relaxed. Then try typing with a light touch. If you feel any shoulder or neck strain, stop for a while and check your posture.
- Position your keyboard in front of your monitor. Putting your keyboard beside your monitor will make you turn your head while you type which could add tension to your neck muscles that may later result in neck strain.

Positioning your mouse

- The mouse should be placed on the same surface as your keyboard so that you can reach it with ease.
- Adjust its position to allow enough space for movement without making you stretch or lean over.
- Use your arm to move the mouse. Do not rest your wrist on the table when moving the mouse.

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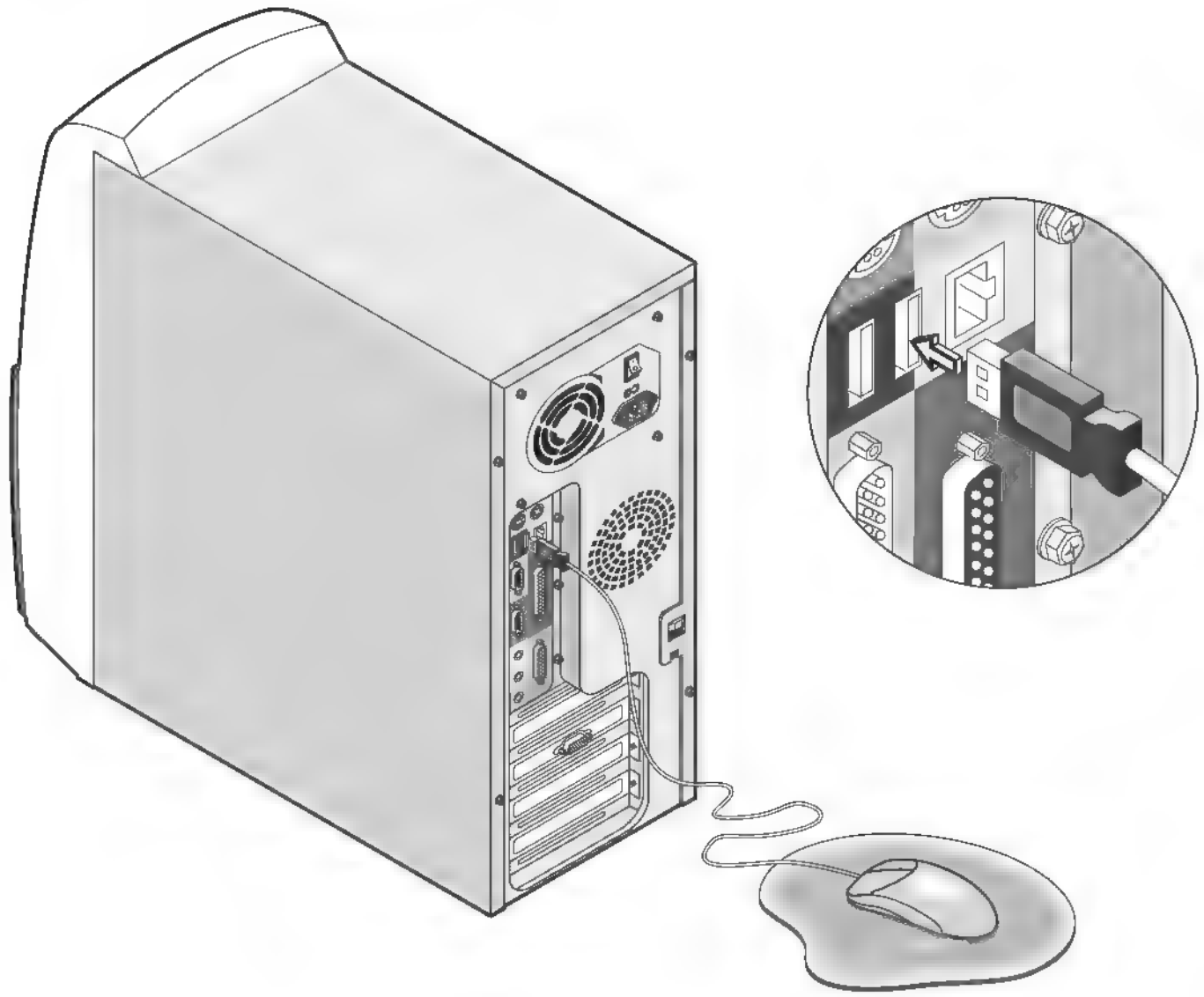
Connecting peripherals

Setting up your computer is easy. For the most part, you only have four things to connect: the mouse, the keyboard, the monitor and the power cable.

USB mouse

Plug the USB mouse cable into any of the USB ports located on the front and rear panel of your computer.



Note: If you are using a PS/2 mouse, plug the mouse cable into the PS/2 mouse port located on the rear panel of your computer.

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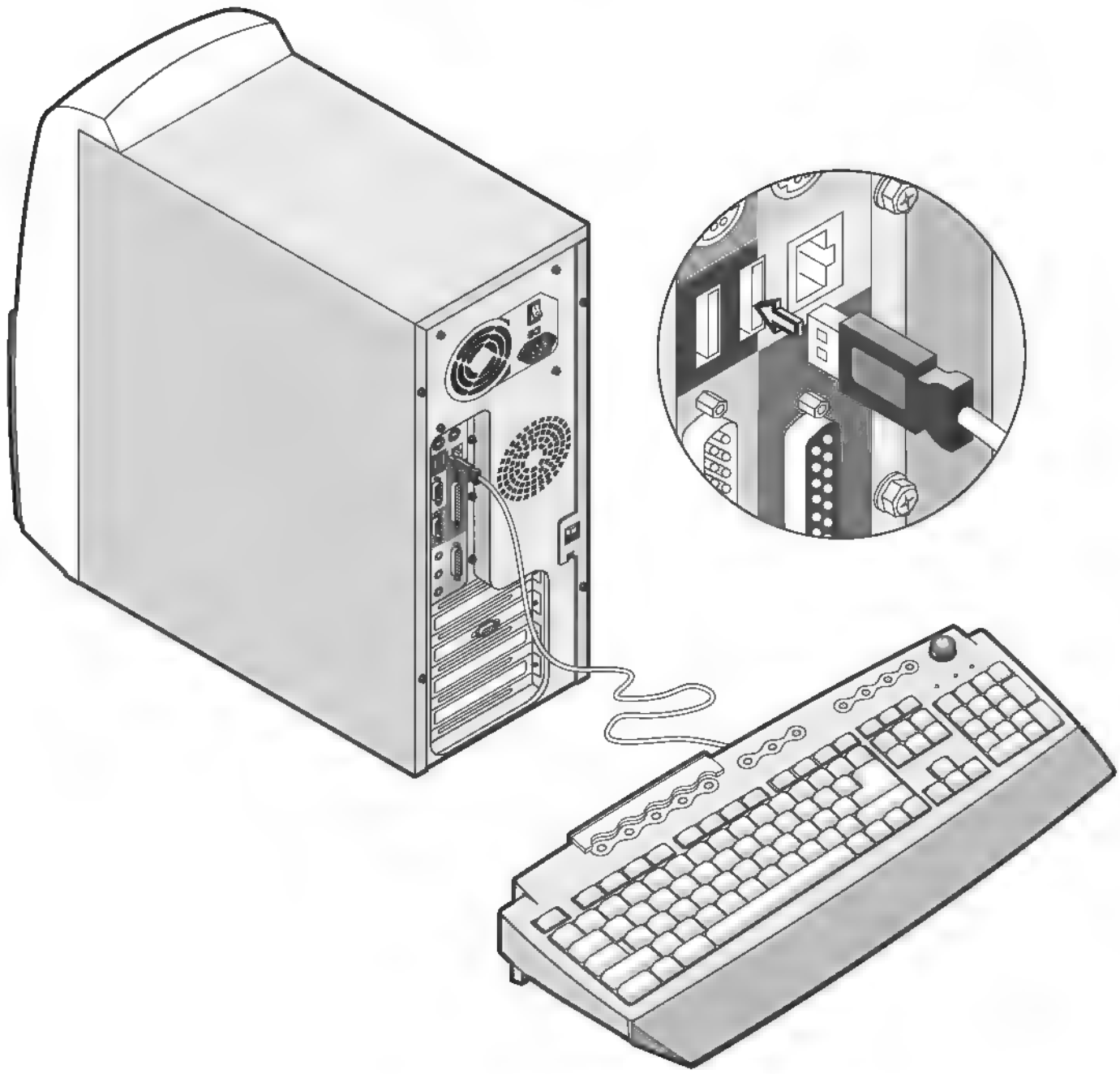
USB keyboard

Plug the USB keyboard cable into any of the USB ports located on the front and rear panel of your computer.



Note: If you are using a PS/2 keyboard, plug the keyboard cable into the PS/2 keyboard port located on the rear panel of your computer.

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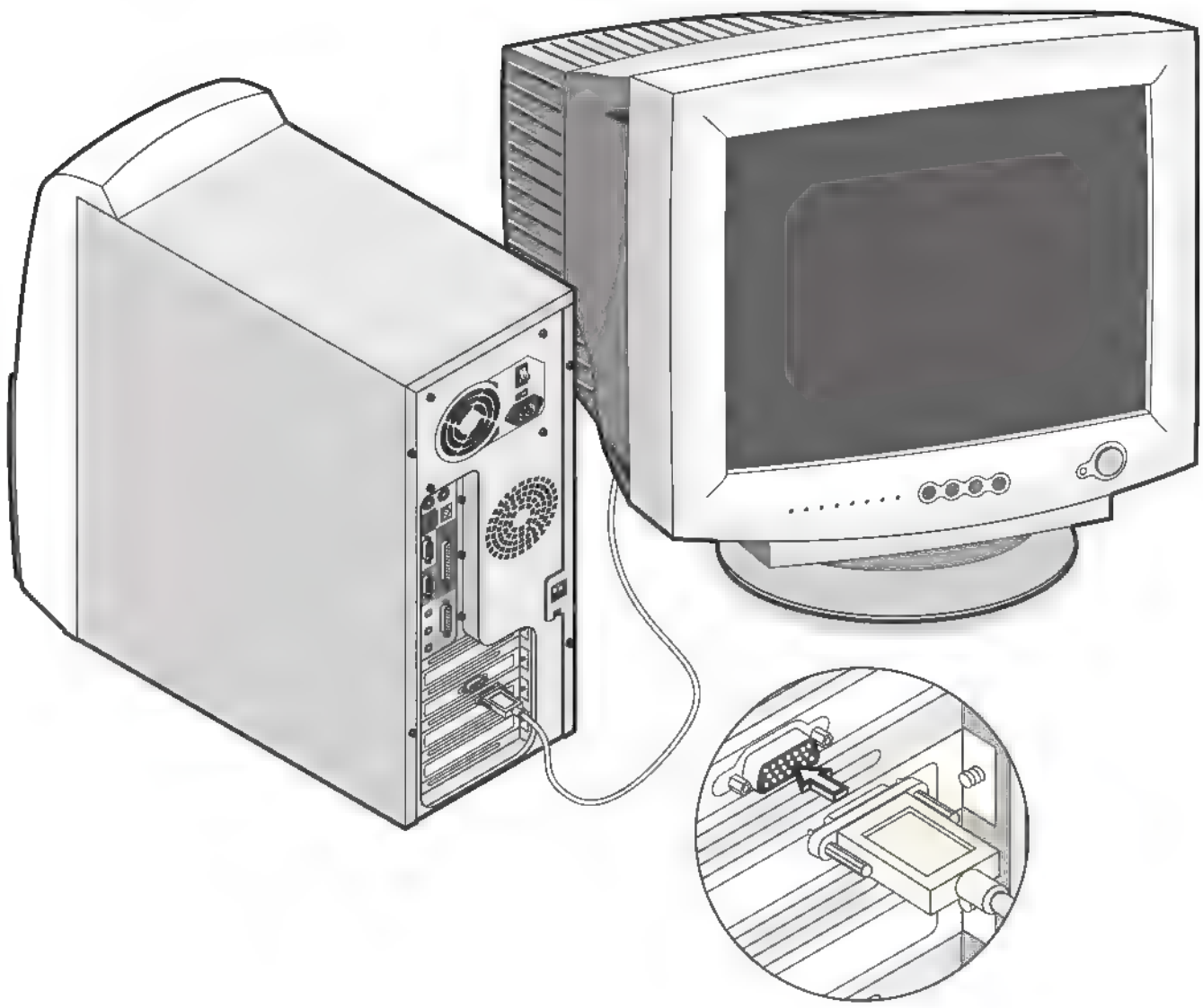
Monitor

To connect a monitor, simply plug the monitor cable into the monitor/ VGA port located on the rear panel of your computer.



Note: Refer to the monitor manual for additonal instructions and information.

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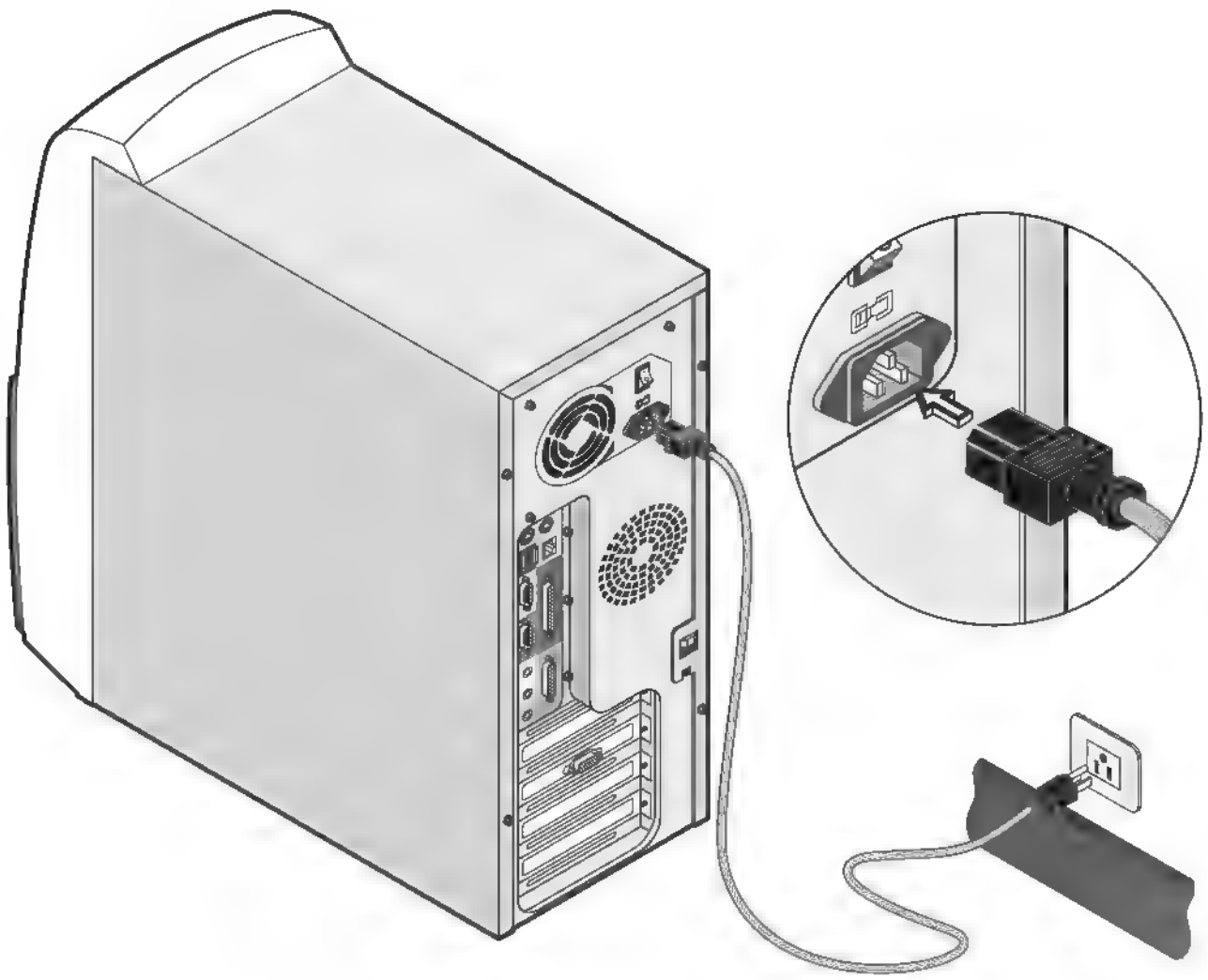
Power cable

Caution! Before you proceed, check the voltage range in your area. Make sure that it matches your computer's voltage setting (see the voltage setting switch located on the rear panel of your computer). If they don't match, change your computer's voltage setting according to your area's voltage range.

Plug the power cable into the power cable socket located on the rear panel of your computer. Then plug the other end of the power cable into a power outlet. The figure below shows a complete connection of the whole system.



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4 Adding options to your Aspire EL

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This chapter will tell you how to connect additional peripherals and what to do if you want to upgrade your computer

key link: accessories.acer.com

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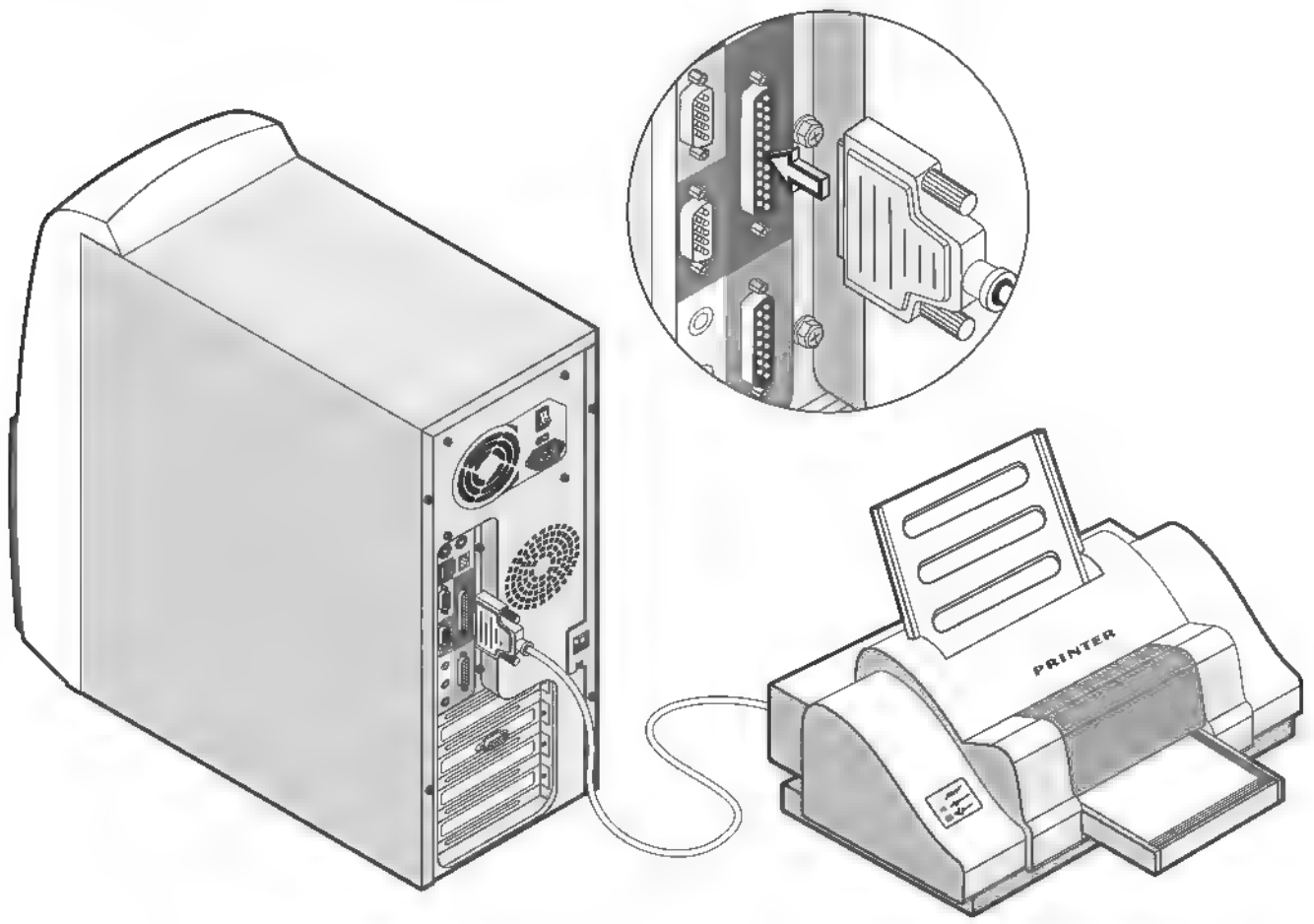
Connecting options

Printer

Your Aspire EL computer supports serial, parallel and USB printers.

To connect a parallel printer, plug the printer cable into the parallel/ printer port located on the rear panel of your computer.



Note: If you are using a serial printer, connect the printer cable into either serial port 1 or serial port 2 located on the rear panel of your computer. In the same manner, connect a USB printer by plugging the printer cable into any of the USB ports located on the front and rear panel.

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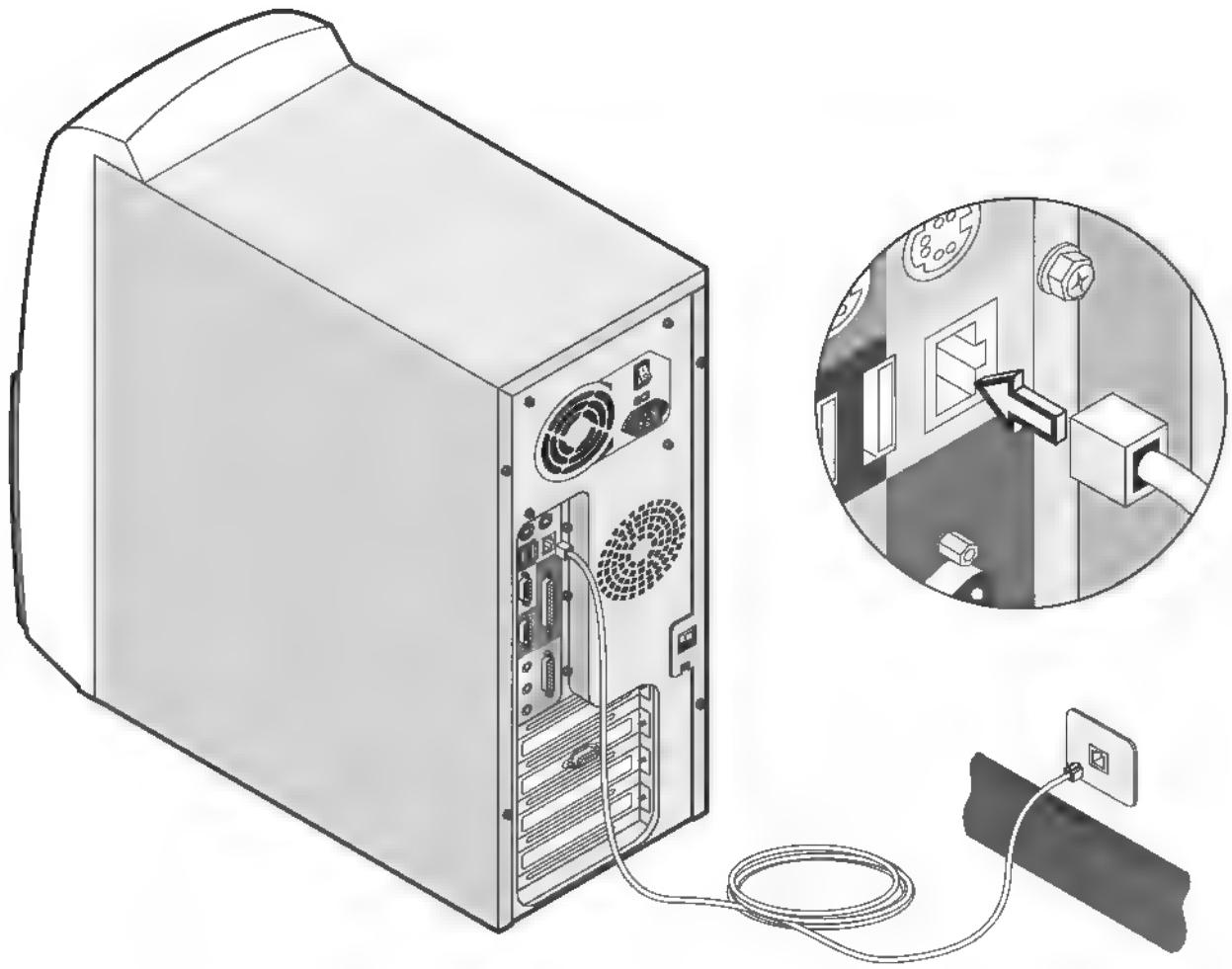
Network

You can connect your computer to a Local Area Network (LAN) using a network cable. To do so, simply plug the network cable into the network port located on the rear panel of your computer.



Note: Consult your operating system manual for information on how to configure your network setup.

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Modem (optional)

Note: A modem connection is only available when you have a modem card installed in your system. Contact your dealer for more information.

Set up your modem connection by plugging the telephone line and handset into their corresponding ports on the rear panel of your computer.

Refer to the figure below for the connections.

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Multimedia devices

Your Aspire EL computer comes with multimedia features (making work more fun!) which allows you to connect such devices as speakers, a microphone, speakers, headphones or earphones, an external CD player and a joystick (for games).

Plug the devices in as follows:

- microphone: connect to rear Microphone-in port
- speakers, earphones, headphones: connect to rear Audio-out/Line-out port
- external CD player: connect to Audio-in/Line-in port
- joystick: connect to Game/MIDI port

Note: You could also connect your microphone to the front microphone-in port and your speakers/earphones/headphones to the speaker/headphone-out port located on the front panel's multimedia port bay.

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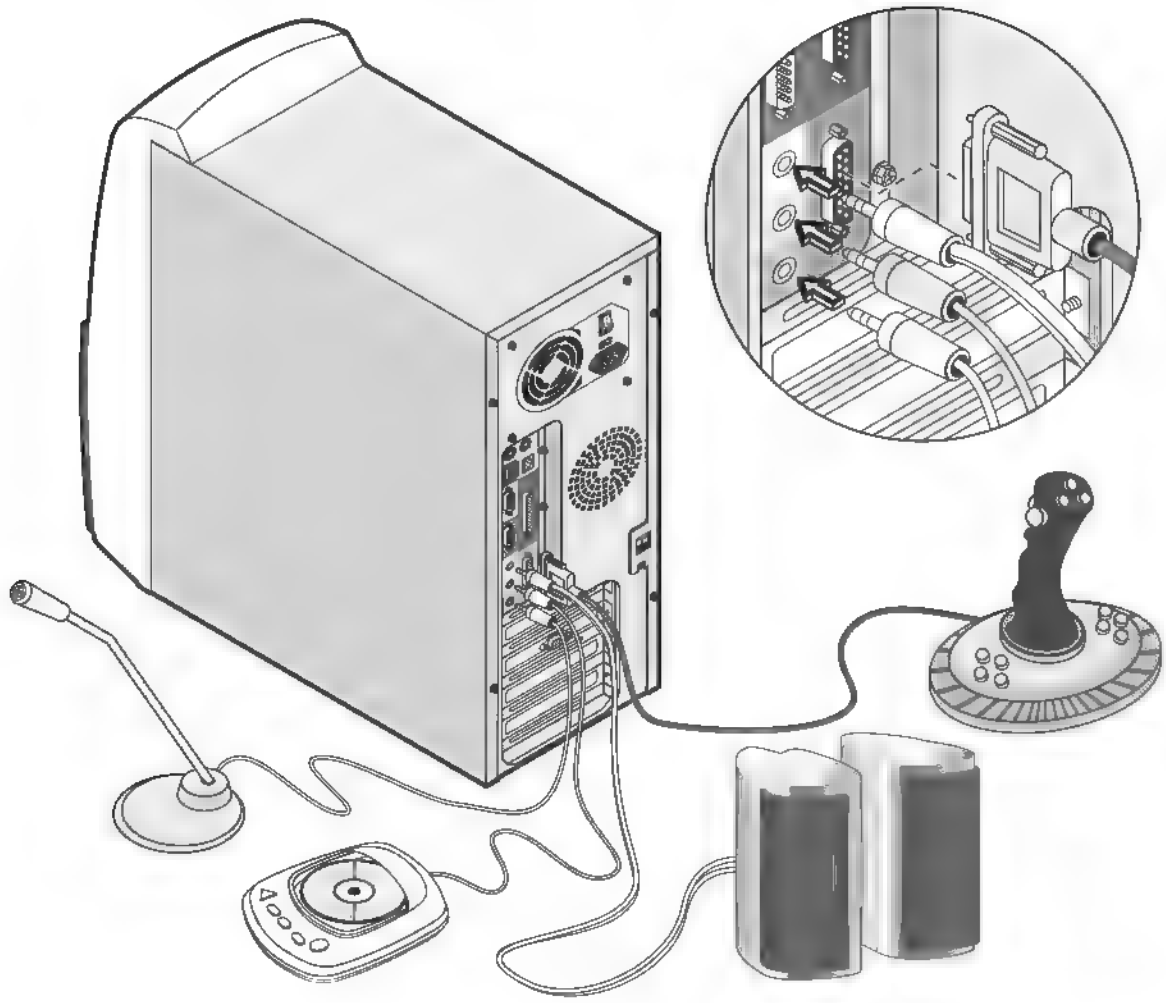
Refer to the figure below for the connections.



Note: For information on how to configure the multimedia devices, consult the documentation that came with each device.

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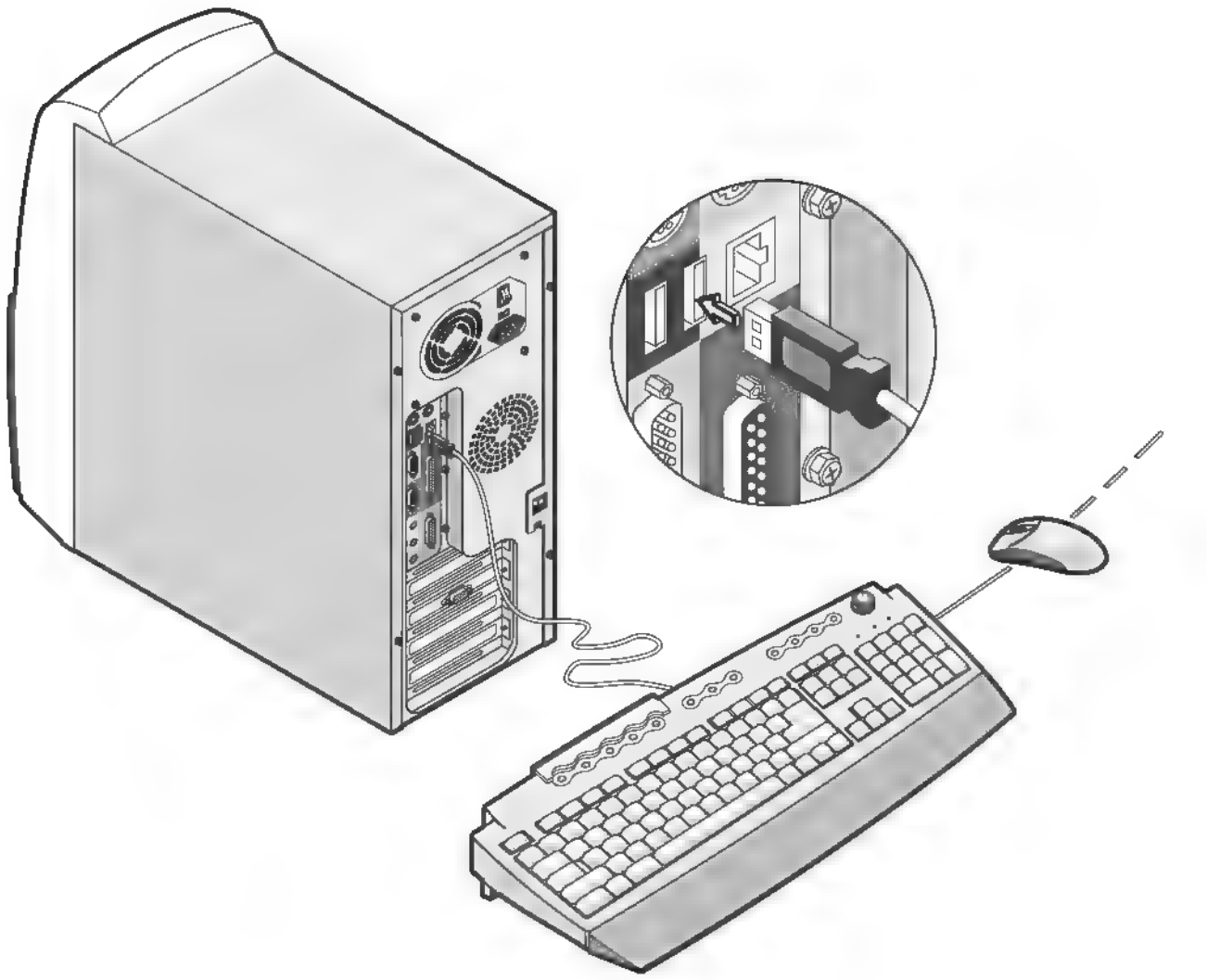
USB devices

Universal Serial Bus (USB) is a new serial bus design that is capable of cascading low-/medium-speed peripherals (less than 12 Mbps) such as a keyboard, mouse, joystick, scanner, printer and modem. With USB, complex cable connections can be eliminated.

Your computer comes with four USB ports; two are located on the rear panel while the other two are inside the front panel's multimedia port bay. These ports allow you to connect additional USB devices to your computer without using up precious system resources.

To connect a USB device, simply plug the device cable into any of the USB ports. The Plug and Play function of your USB interface allows you to connect and disconnect a USB device without turning off your computer.



Note: Most USB devices have a built-in USB port which allows you to daisy-chain other devices.

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Turning on your computer

After connecting the necessary peripherals and plugging in the power cable, you are now ready to turn your computer on and get to work.

To turn on your computer:

1 Turn on all peripherals connected to your computer such as the monitor, printer, fax, speakers, etc.

2 On your computer's rear panel, set the voltage selector switch to the voltage range applicable in your area (a) then turn on the main power switch (b).

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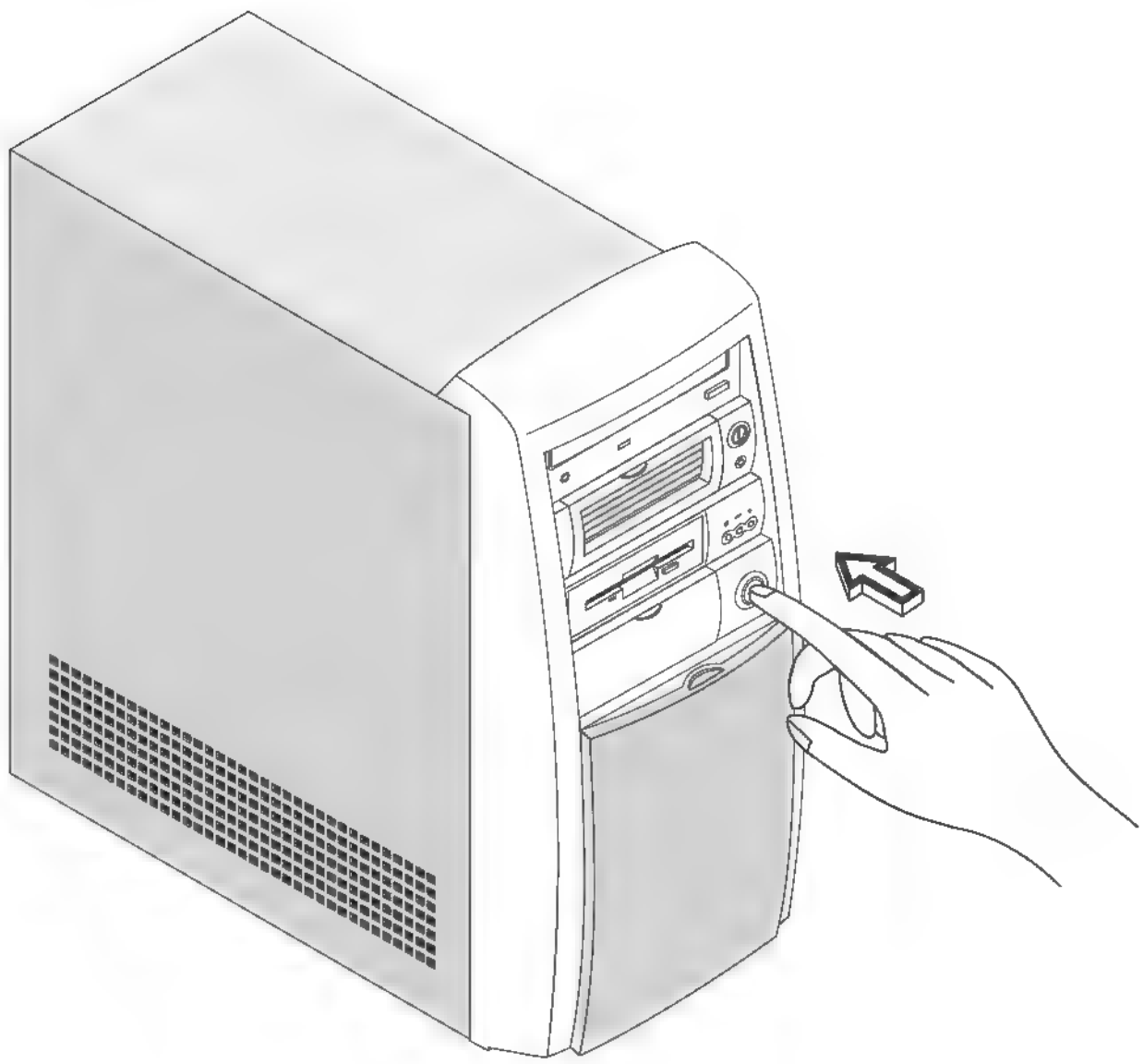
3 On the front panel of your computer, press the power button.



When the computer finishes booting, it is now ready for use.

Important: Make sure that the power cable is properly plugged in into an electrical outlet. If you are using a power strip or an AVR (Auto-Voltage Regulator), make sure that it is plugged in and turned on.

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Turning off your computer

To turn off your computer, on the Windows taskbar click on the **Start** button, point to **Shut Down...**, select **Shut down** from the dropdown window then click on **OK**. You can then turn off all peripherals connected to your computer.

If you cannot shut down your computer, press the power button for at least four seconds. Quickly pressing the button may put the computer in a Suspend mode only.

Note: You do not need to turn off the main power switch every time you turn off your computer. Turn off the main power switch only if you will not use your computer for a long time or if your computer needs servicing.

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Configuring your Acer GoTo drive

Follow the steps below in configuring your Acer GoTo drive:

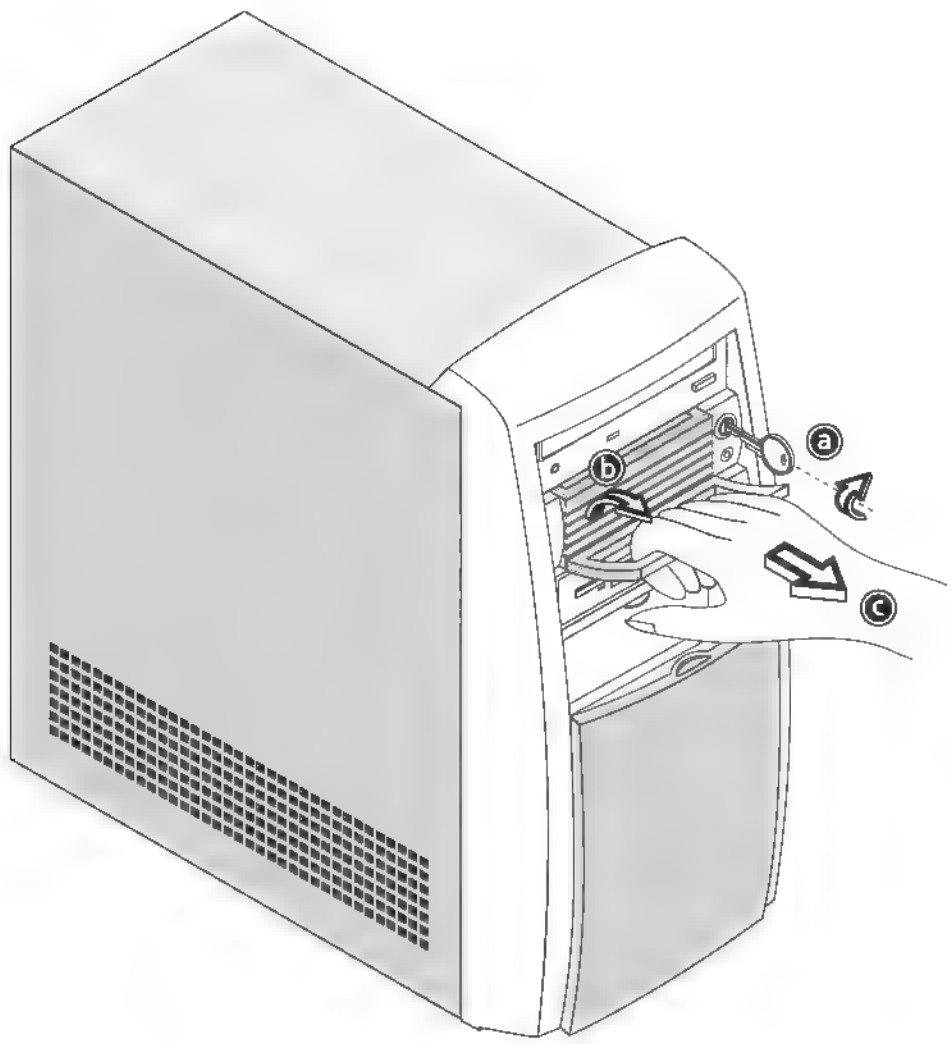
1 Turn off your computer.

2 Remove the Acer GoTo drive frame from the bay as in the following figure:

   a Unlock the Acer GoTo drive bay using the key shipped in with your computer.

   b Pull the drive frame handle downward.

   c Remove the drive frame from the Acer GoTo drive bay.



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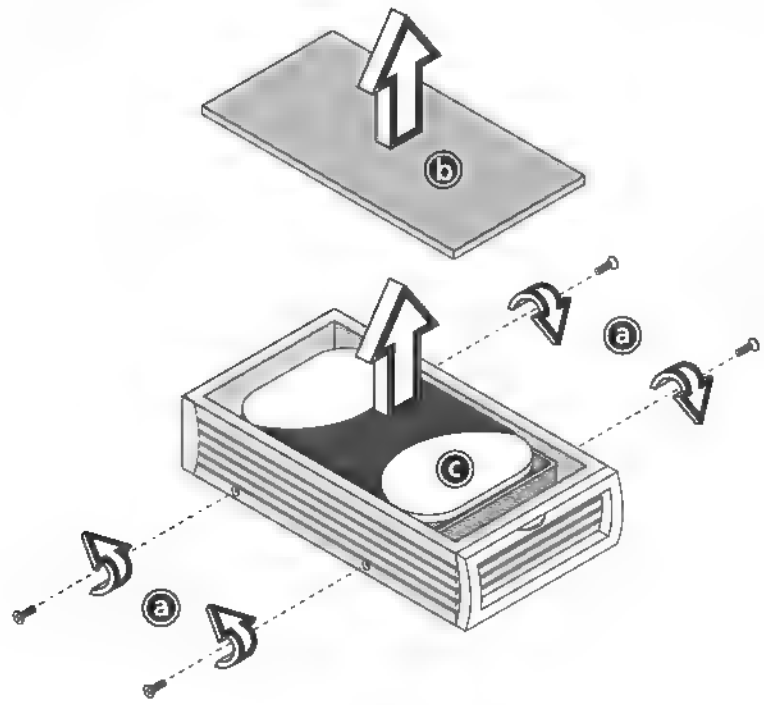
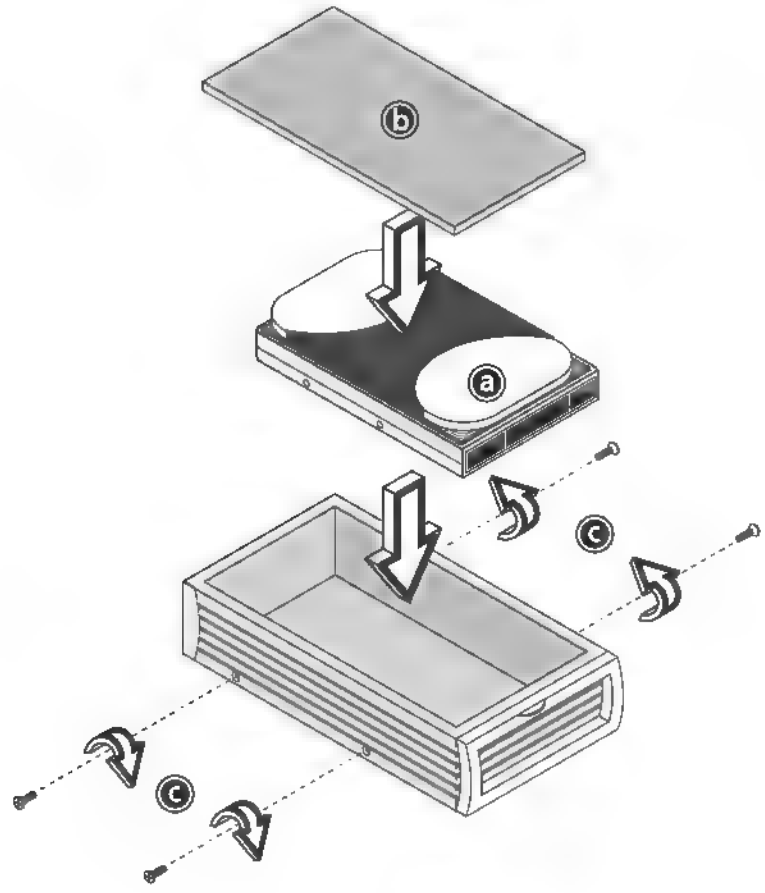
3 Remove the four screws that hold the hard disk to the drive frame (a), remove the frame cover (b) then the hard disk (c).



4 Install a new 3.5-inch hard disk (a), replace the frame cover (b) then secure it with the fours screws that you have previously removed (c).



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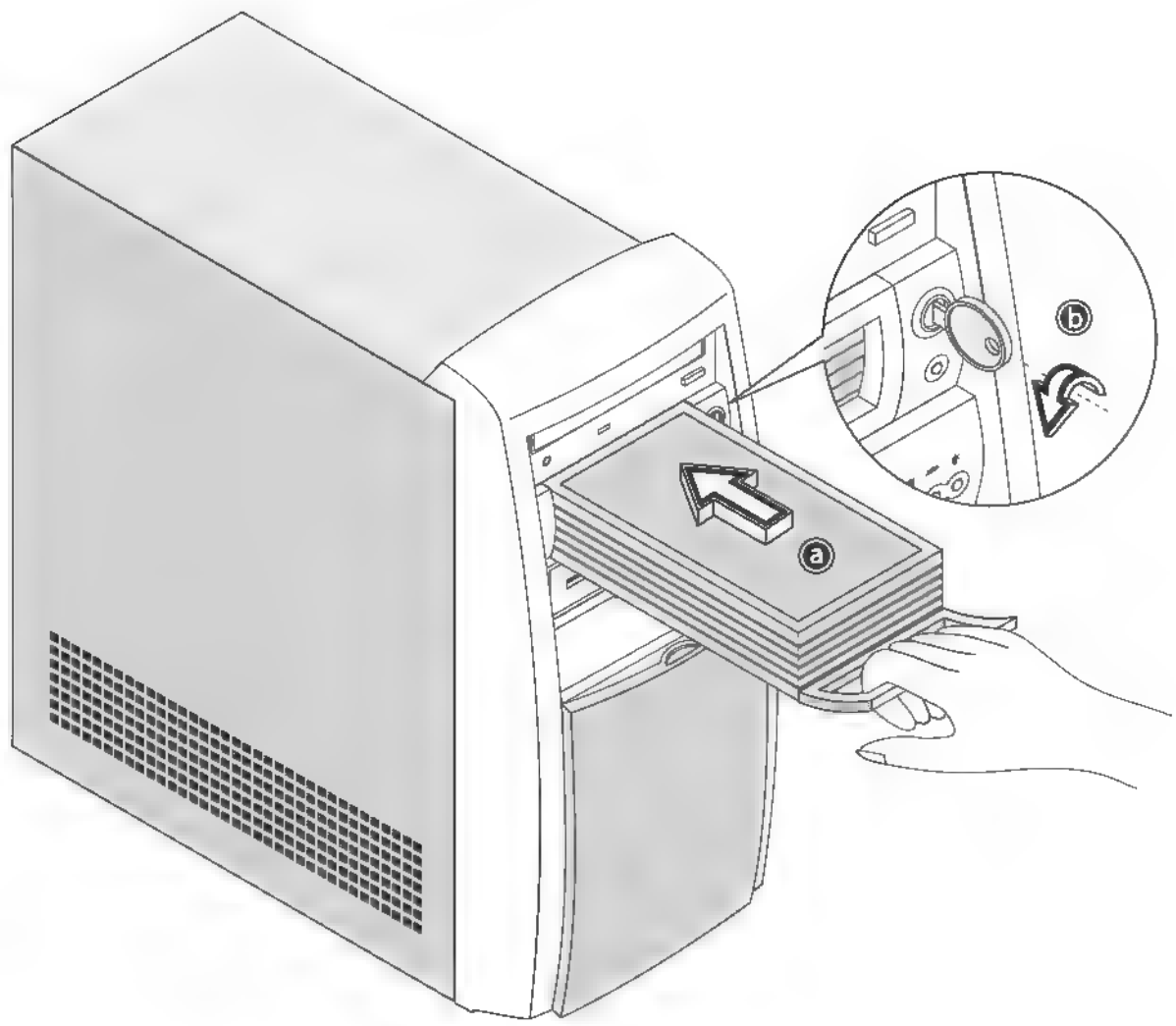
5 Reinstall the drive frame into the Acer GoTo drive bay (a) then lock the drive bay (b).



6 Turn on your computer. Your Acer GoTo hard drive is ready for use.

Note: When you turn on your computer, the BIOS setup utility automatically configures your system based on the storage capacity of the swappable drive installed.

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Upgrading your computer

Certain components of your computer are upgradeable such as the memory, the disk drives and the expansion cards. However, for safety purposes, we do not recommend that you perform these upgrades yourself. If you want to replace or upgrade any of these components, contact your dealer or a qualified service technician for assistance.

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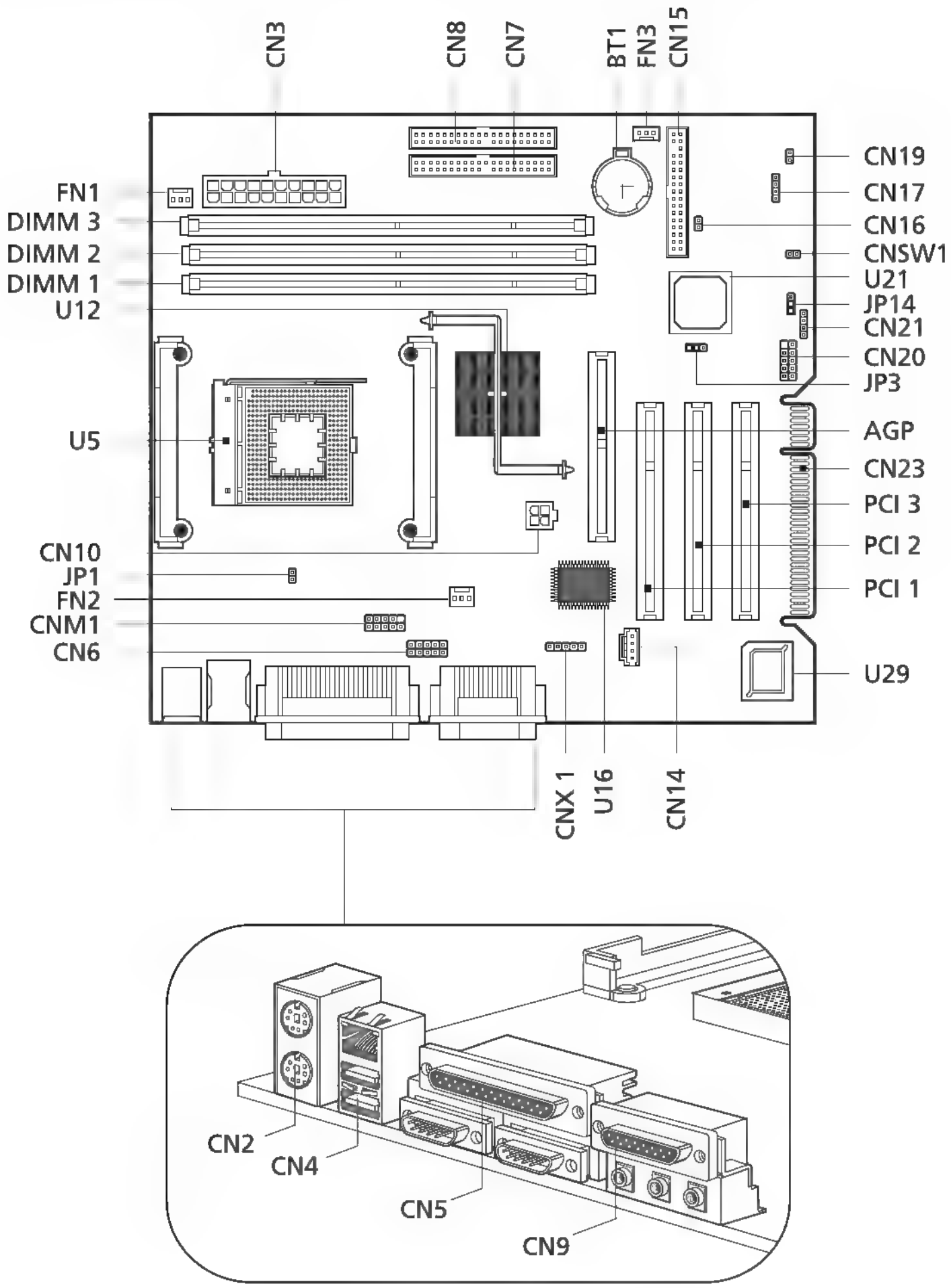
Mainboard

The layout below shows all the connectors and jumpers on the mainboard. Refer to the table for a brief description of each connectors and jumpers.



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Label	Component
AGP	AGP slot
BT1	Battery
CNM1	SmartCard connector (shared connection with serial port 2)
CNSW1	IDE cold-swap pin
CNX 1	Audio FPIO connector
CN2	PS/2 mouse (upper) and keyboard (lower) ports
CN3	Power connector
CN4	Network (upper) and USB (lower) ports
CN5	Parallel port (upper) and serial ports (lower)
CN6	Memory Stick connector (optional)
CN7	IDE 2 connector
CN8	IDE 1 connector
CN9	Game/MIDI (upper), line-out (left), line-in (middle) and mic-in (right) connectors
CN10	Power connector (+12V)
CN14	CD-in connector
CN15	FDD connector
CN16	Intrusion connector
CN17	HDD LED connector
CN19	Power button
CN20	Front USB connector

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Label	Component
CN21	Power/Suspend LED connector
CN23	EXT PCI slot
DIMM 1 DIMM 2 DIMM 3	Memory slot 1-3
FN1	3-pin CPU fan connector
FN2	3-pin system fan connector
FN3	3-pin system fan connector
JP1	LAN active LED connector
JP3	Model select
JP14	1-2 Clear CMOS 2-3 Normal*
PCI 1 PCI 2 PCI 3	PCI slot 1-3
U5	CPU socket
U12	Intel 845 socket
U16	SMSC chipset
U21	Intel ICH2 chipset
U29	BIOS chipset

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System utilities

Depending on the hardware and optional features installed in your Aspire EL computer, your system came bundled with several program utilities designed to streamline your computer's operations. Refer to your online guide for more information on these utilities.

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5 Need help?

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This chapter instructs you on how to deal with common system problems. Read it before calling a technician if a problem occurs. Solutions to more serious problems require opening up the computer. Do not attempt to open the computer by yourself. Contact your dealer or an authorized service center for assistance.

key link: www.acersupport.com.

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Acer is dedicated in bringing you a reliable and easy to maintain computer. However, we realize that some problems may arise unexpectedly. Below are possible questions that may arise during the use of your computer with corresponding easy troubleshooting solutions to the situation..

Q: I pressed the power button on but the system did not boot up.

A: Check the power indicator.

If the indicator is not lit, no power is being applied to the system. Do the following:

- Check if you plugged the power cable properly into an electrical outlet.
- Check if the main power switch located on the rear panel of the computer is turned on.
- Check if the voltage selector switch located on the rear panel of the computer is set to the correct voltage.
- If you are using a power strip or AVR, make sure that it is plugged in and turned on.

If the indicator is lit, check the following:

- Is a nonbootable (nonsystem) diskette in the floppy drive? If yes, remove or replace it with a system diskette and press **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **Del** to restart your computer.
- The operating system files may be damaged or missing. Insert the startup disk you created during Windows setup into the floppy drive and press **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **Del** to restart your computer. This will automatically diagnose your system and make necessary fixes. However, if the diagnostic utility still reports a problem, then you may have to use the Recovery CD that came with your system to restore it to its original factory default settings.

Caution! Using the Recovery CD will erase all files previously saved in your computer so make sure to back up your important files before starting the recovery process. Refer to your online guide for instructions on the recovery process.

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Q: Nothing appears on the screen.

A: Your computer's power management function automatically blanks the screen to save power. Press any key to turn the display back on.

If pressing a key does not work, you can restart your computer. If restarting your computer does not work, contact your dealer or the technical support center for support.

Q: My printer does not work.

A: Do any the following:

- Make sure that the printer cable is connected to a power outlet and that it is turned on.
- Make sure that the printer cable is securely connected to the computer. See "Printer" on page 33 for information on how to connect a printer to your computer.
- For additional information concerning the printer, refer to the printer's documentation.

Q: No sound comes out from the computer.

A: Check the following:

- The volume may be muted. Under Windows, look for the volume control icon on the taskbar. If it is crossed-out, click on the icon and deselect the **Mute** option. You could also press the volume control/mute knob on your USB keyboard to toggle from mute to sound on.
- If headphones, earphones, or external speakers are connected to the line-out port of your computer, the internal or built-in speakers are automatically turned off.

Q: System cannot read a diskette, the hard disk, CD or DVD.

A: Check the following:

- Make sure that you are using the correct type of disc or diskette. See "Disk drives" on page 18.
- Check if the diskette is formatted correctly. If not, format it again.
- Make sure the diskette or CD/DVD is properly inserted in the drive.
- Check if the CD/DVD is clean and is not scratched.

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- Check your drive by using a good (i.e., undamaged) diskette or a good CD/DVD. If your floppy drive, CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive cannot read the information on the good diskette or CD/DVD, there may be a problem with the drive. Contact your dealer or technical support center for assistance.

Q: System cannot write to a diskette or disc.

A: Check the following:

- Make sure the diskette is not write-protected. See "Disk drives" on page 18.
- Make sure that you are using the correct type of disc or diskette. See "Disk drives" on page 18.
- Check if the diskette is formatted correctly. If not, format it again.

Q: Pressing the CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive Stop/Eject button does not eject the CD/DVD tray.

A: There is an emergency eject hole on the CD-ROM/DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive. Simply insert the tip of a pen or a paperclip into it to pop out the CD/DVD tray.

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